

Amendment Dated February 19, 2004

Reply to Office Action of November 19, 2003

US Serial No. 09/435,570

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**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A valve assembly for an air brake system comprising:  
a valve housing having a bore;  
a valve member received in the bore having a first portion and a second portion forming an interference fit with the first portion; and  
5 a check valve assembly interposed between the first and second portions and maintained in an assembled state within the first and second portions, the check valve assembly including a biasing member, a follower, and a check valve member.

2. (Original) The valve assembly of claim 1 wherein the first portion includes a recess and the second portion included protrusions extending therefrom and received in a friction fit engagement with the recess.

3. (Original) The valve assembly of claim 1 wherein the first portion of the valve member is formed from a non-metallic material.

4. (Original) The valve assembly of claim 1 wherein the second portion of the valve member is formed from a non-metallic material.

5. (Original) The valve assembly of claim 1 wherein the first portion of the valve member is formed from a non-metallic material and non-circular passages are provided therethrough to enhance flow.

6. (Original) A proportioning valve assembly comprising:  
a housing having a blind opening formed therein;  
a valve assembly dimensioned for receipt in the opening, the valve assembly including a first portion formed from a non-metallic material having at least one passage extending therethrough and having a recess formed at an open end thereof, and  
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a second portion formed from a non-metallic material and including a surface dimensioned for interference fit with the recess, and a check valve assembly received within the first and second portions including a spring, a spring follower, and a valve member disposed in abutting engagement within the first and second portions whereby  
10 the valve assembly is maintained in assembled arrangement by the interference fit between the first and second portions allowing the valve assembly to be easily inserted into the blind opening.

7. (Original) The assembly of claim 6 wherein the second portion includes raised protrusions disposed in spaced relation along the first portion for frictional engagement with the recess.

8. (Original) The assembly of claim 7 wherein the second portion includes a circumferentially continuous shoulder dimensioned for receipt in the recess.

9. (Original) A method of assembling a proportioning valve assembly having a housing with a blind opening therein, comprising the steps of:

providing a first non-metallic valve member portion having an open end defining a recess;

5 providing a second non-metallic valve member portion having a shoulder dimensioned for receipt in the recess of the first portion;

inserting a check valve assembly between the valve member first and second portions; and

frictionally engaging the shoulder in the recess to encase the check valve  
10 member between the first and second valve member portions and define a sub-assembly.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 comprising the further step of inserting the sub-assembly into the opening in the housing.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9 including the steps of placing the check valve assembly into a cavity in the second valve member portion and advancing the first and second portions toward one another prior to the frictional engagement step.